



The Hon Tony Burke MP

RECEIVED
28 AUG 2012

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

C12/7922

Mr Tony Windsor MP
Member for New England
PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

23 AUG 2012

Dear Mr Windsor

Thank you for your representation of 8 June 2012, on behalf of _____ concerning logging activities in the Leo's Foot coupe at Mt St Leonard in the Toolangi State forest, by VicForests and the impact on Leadbeater's Possum.

I note Ms Saulwick's concerns regarding the potential impacts that logging may have on the Leadbeater's Possum. As you may be aware, forestry operations in the Central Highlands of Victoria are subject to a Regional Forestry Agreement (RFA) between the Australian Government and the Victorian Government and that such operations are generally exempt from the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

I am advised, however, that the officers from the Compliance and Enforcement Branch of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the department) are currently reviewing documents produced during a recent court case involving VicForests and the non-government organisation MyEnvironment in relation to proposed logging activity at Toolangi. Should it be necessary following this review, the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, which has responsibility for the conduct of regional forest agreements, will be consulted to determine whether logging operations have been conducted in accordance with the Central Highlands RFA.

Thank you for bringing Ms Saulwick's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Tony Burke